03500.017916 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Kaitlin S. Joerger
SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.)	_
	:	Group Art Unit: 3653
Application No.: 10/781,810)	
	:	Confirmation No. 3940
Filed: February 20, 2004)	
	-	
For: SHEET TRANSPORT APPARATUS)	February 22, 2007
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	-	

Mail Stop RCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed Japanese references, together with English-language Abstracts therefor, is also enclosed.

JP 2002-316733 has been cited for its disclosure of a curved path. However, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest the invention as recited in each of the independent claims.

JP 5-147764 discloses to nip an envelope fed out by a pair of rollers to expel air from inside the envelope. In JP 5-147764, the pair of rollers squeezes the swelling portion, but this will cause wrinkles in the envelope or even possibly break the envelope. The reference does not disclose, as recited in claim 11, at least the feature of a rotary member arranged away from the transport guide by a predetermined distance to adequately press the swelling portion occurring in the envelope. Nor does it disclose or suggest the feature of ribs as a regulation member to press a swelling portion in an envelope, as called for by claim 17. JP 5-147764 merely discloses a pair of rollers.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/I awrence A Stahl/

Attorney for Applicants Lawrence A. Stahl Registration No. 30.110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3801 Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LASieyw

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)				ATTY DOCKET NO. APPLICATION NO. 03500.017916 10/781,810					
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANTES		APPLICANT SHINNUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.							
(Use several sheets if meconary) Date submitted to the PTO: February 22, 2007			FILING DATE February 20, 2004		GROUP 3653				
				U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLAS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROFILATE		
					-				
					-				
					+				
					+				
					+				
			J.	OREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLAS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT		
		5-147764	06/15/1993	Japan			Abstract		
		2002-316733	10/31/2002	Japan	_		Abstract		
					-				
			OTHER POSTAGOT	(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Perissent Pages, Etc.)					
			J. Land J. A. Continu	cy consump, comme, man, artifus (40 th H Papes, 186)					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED					
EXAMINER: Initial if perference considered, whether or not criation is in conformance with MPEP 669, Draw line through criation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form									